banning export of wheat and non-basmati rice, increasing minimum support price, protecting vulnerable sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antodaya Ann Yojana (AAY) and tariffs reductions, regulatory measures in futures trade, etc.

Urban housing shortage

4193. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether concerned over the rising shortage of housing in India, the National Housing Bank (NHB) has announced the launch of pro-poor housing finance schemes in India;

(b) if so, whether according to them, India is facing an acute crunch of housing space and the weaker classes remain the most suffered sections of the society;

(c) whether according to them, the country is reeling under an urban housing shortage of 24.7 million units, of which 99 per cent comprise the weaker sections;

(d) if so, the proposals that would be launched by the NHB; and

(e) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No such scheme has been announced by National Housing Bank (NHB). In order to focus on Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)/Low Income Groups (LIG) segment, NHB provides financial assistance to Public Housing Development Agencies frr low cost housing projects particularly for the EWS/LIG categories and for slum redevelopment.

(c) As per National Housing & Habitat Policy announced in December 2007, the urban housing shortage in the country is estimated at 24.7 million units of which 99 per cent pertain to EWS and LIG segment of the society.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Likely decline in economic growth

4194. MS. SUSHILAT1RIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's growth is likely to decline during the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) As per Advance Estimates of Central Statistical Organisation, the growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at constant (1999-2000) prices is estimated at 8.7 per cent in 2007-08 as compared to growth rate of 9.6 per cent in 2006-07.

(b) The deceleration in growth is mainly due to subdued growth in agriculture, industry and broad sector of'financing, insurance, real estate and business services'. A moderation in the world economic growth has also affected the GDP growth.

(c) The Government has taken various fiscal, monetary and administrative measures to maintain the momentum of growth with price stability. These measures include minimal